

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 00830 021231 Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 021135 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9313

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 830

STADIS EXDIS

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OCON, IR, CE

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

REF COLOMBO 812

1. MDFA DIRGEN MENDIS HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT PM VERY MUCH REGRETS SHE WILL BE UNABLE RECEIVE DEPSEC RUSH AND ASSSEC SISCO INASMUCH AS SHE WILL BE AWAY FROM COLOMBO FROM APRIL 14 TO 22. IDEA OF TAKING PARTY TO HER OUTSIDE CAPITAL HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, HE SAID, BUT PM FOUND THAT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE SHE WOULD BE CONSTANTLY MOVING ABOUT THE COUNTRY AND DID NOT KNOW WHERE SHE WOULD BE AT ANY GIVEN TIME. MENDIS REPEATED THAT PM WAS VERY SORRY AND HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO VISIT, BUT SHE HOPED USG WOULD UNDERSTAND HER ABSENCE DURING APRIL 14-22 PERIOD HAD BEEN SET FOR SOME TIME.

2. COMMENT: I TOO, OF COURSE, VERY MUCH REGRET THAT PM'S PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED SCHEDULE OVER HOLIDAY PERIOD PRECLUDES HER MEETING WITH DEPSEC RUSH AND YOU. IN HER ABSENCE, THERE IS NO ONE OF STATURE WHOM I WOULD SUGGEST YOUR COMING HERE TO MEET. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES BELIEVE WE MAY HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE EXCEPT TO SAVE SRI LANKA FOR ANOTHER DAY.
VAN HOLLEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS, EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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